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Twenty-third special session

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"*

Addendum

Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

Annex

Proposed outcome document

I. Introduction

1. The Governments which came together at the special session of the General Assembly have reaffirmed their commitment to the goals and objectives contained in the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 **[as contained in the report of the Conference/(as a footnote)]**. The Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action set as goals gender equality, development and peace and constituted an agenda for the empowerment of women. The Governments reviewed and appraised progress and identified obstacles and current challenges in the implementation of the Platform for Action. They recognized that the goals and commitments made in the Platform for Action have not been fully implemented and achieved and have agreed upon further actions and initiatives at local, national, regional, and international levels to accelerate its implementation and to ensure that commitments for gender equality, development and peace are fully realized.

2. The Beijing Platform for Action identified 12 critical areas for priority action to achieve the advancement and empowerment of women. The Commission on the Status of Women has reviewed progress in each of the 12 critical areas of concern and since 1996 has adopted agreed conclusions and recommendations for accelerated implementation. The Platform for Action, together with these agreed conclusions and recommendations, forms the basis for further progress towards the achievement of gender

* The present document, in conjunction with A/S-23/2/Add.1, is the report of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on the work of its resumed third session. The final report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twenty-third Special Session, Supplement No. 2* (A/S-23/2/Add.1/Rev.1).

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equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century. **AGREED**

[2 bis. The objective of the Platform for Action, which is in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, is the empowerment of all women. The full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women is essential for the empowerment of women. While the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The implementation of the Platform, including through national laws and the formulation of strategies, policies, programmes and development priorities, is the sovereign responsibility of each State, in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the significance of and full respect for various religious and ethical values, cultural backgrounds and philosophical convictions of individuals and their communities should contribute to the full enjoyment by women of their human rights and the achievement of equality, development and peace. (para. 9 of the Platform for Action]

[New 2 bis. The implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action as well as the further actions and initiatives contained in the present document, is the sovereign right of each State, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people and in conformity with all human rights and fundamental freedoms.]